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New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 7th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. INSANALLY
(President of the General Assembly)

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The meeting was called to order at 9.45 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE FORTY-EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ALLOCATION OF ITEMS (continued)

Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by Burundi (A/48/240)

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the request for the inclusion in the agenda of an additional item entitled "The situation in Burundi" (A/48/240). The representative of Burundi had indicated that he wished to take the floor in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, and he invited him to take a place at the Committee table.

2. Mr. SINUNGURUZA (Burundi) said that the international community had been closely following the situation in his country since 21 October 1993, the date on which a group of military personnel had overthrown the democratically elected institutions by assassinating the head of State, a number of ministers and other members of the National Assembly. The coup d'état had aroused the old demons of ethnic division in the population and Burundi was now experiencing a war between ethnic groups that had turned 400,000 inhabitants into refugees and displaced persons and was so violent that peoples and countries that cherished peace and justice could not remain indifferent.

3. In those circumstances, the international community had the duty to help Burundi restore peace and security and its democratic institutions and provide urgent assistance to refugees and displaced persons. In the light of the urgency of this situation, his delegation had deemed it appropriate to request the inclusion in the agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly of an additional item entitled "The situation in Burundi" and hoped that the request would be granted.

4. Mrs. HASSAN (Egypt) said that her country, which currently presided over the Organization of African Unity (OAU), had transmitted a memorandum to the Security Council expressing its profound concern at the situation in Burundi, to which it had sent a high-level representative. The General Assembly therefore must take steps to confront that troubling situation with a view to restoring order, protecting democratic institutions and avoiding the danger of civil war. Accordingly, her delegation strongly supported the request by Burundi for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda.

5. Mr. MONGBE (Benin) said that his country was following developments in the situation in Burundi closely and with deep concern. It fully supported the request by the representative of Burundi and pointed out that the draft resolution contained in document A/48/240 had received the support of all the members of the Group of African States at the United Nations.

6. Mr. OUEDRAOGO (Burkina Faso) also endorsed the request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

7. Mrs. SEMGURUKA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that as a neighbour, her country had closely followed the evolution of the situation in Burundi and it supported the inclusion of the proposed additional item in the agenda of the current session of the General Assembly.

8. Mr. JUMA (Zaire) said that the tragedy that had just stricken his country's brothers in Burundi had been painfully felt in his country, which received an ever-increasing number everyday of Burundi people seeking safety. His delegation condemned the coup d'état, which compromised the democratic process in Burundi, and fully supported the action taken by the Permanent Representative of that country in requesting the inclusion in the agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly of an additional item entitled "The situation in Burundi".

9. Mr. MUSUKA (Zambia) said that unless the international community acted immediately, Burundi was likely to experience a civil war with possibly catastrophic consequences. His delegation therefore fully supported the request by Burundi for the inclusion of an additional item on the situation in that country.

10. Mr. BULL (Liberia) said that his country, which also was a victim of civil strife, fully sympathized with the Burundi people, who were now living through a very difficult time. His delegation therefore unreservedly supported the request for the inclusion of an additional item. It was indeed incumbent on the international community to do its utmost to restore peace and stability to the brother country of Burundi.

11. Mr. HADID (Algeria) expressed his solidarity with the Burundi people and supported the inclusion of the proposed additional item in the agenda as well as the draft resolution contained in the appendix to document A/48/240, which the Permanent Representative of his country would transmit to the General Assembly in his capacity as Chairman of the Group of African States for the month of November.

12. Mr. LEGAL (France) said that his country joined its African friends in expressing its sorrow and indignation at the recent events in Burundi, in particular, at the assassination of President Melchior Ndadaye, whose message of hope, democracy and national unity had been recalled by the Permanent Representative of Burundi in the moving and unanimous tribute which the General Assembly had recently paid to him. There could be no justification for the putsch perpetrated by a group of military personnel who had interrupted a democratic process that had been so long in coming, massacred the elected representatives of the people and thus once more plunged the country into ethnic divisions and confrontations. In those circumstances, a debate therefore should be held in the General Assembly in plenary, in order to convey to the perpetrators of the putsch the undisguised censure which their actions aroused in the international community, to convey to the Burundi people that the nations of the world stood in solidarity with them and to convey to the legitimate Government of Burundi, under the leadership of its Prime Minister, the support of the General Assembly and its encouragement to take heart.

13. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include the additional item in the agenda.

14. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be considered directly in plenary meeting.

The meeting rose at 10.05 a.m.